

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A method comprising coating paper or cardboard with a coating color, wherein the coating color comprises an agent for simultaneously adjusting the water retention of the coating color and its Brookfield viscosity, and wherein the agent comprises a copolymer that is water soluble in a neutral or alkaline medium, which copolymer comprises:

- A) 25% to 45% by weight monomer units whose homopolymer has a  $T_g > 90^\circ\text{C}$ ,
- B) 30% to 65% by weight anionic monomer units,
- C) an amount greater than 0% and up to and including 30% by weight non-ionic monomer ~~motives~~ units other than the monomers A), selected from the group consisting of oxyalkylated monomers with ethylenic non-saturation terminated by linear or branched alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl or arylalkyl groups having 1 to 50 carbon atoms,
- D) 0% to 5% by weight cross-linking monomer units.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 11, wherein ~~said copolymer~~ comprises:

- A) ~~25% to 45% by weight~~ comprises monomer units selected from the group consisting of styrene,  $\alpha$ -methylstyrene and their derivatives, or methyl methacrylate,
- B) ~~30% to 65% by weight~~ comprises anionic monomer units selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, mixtures thereof, and the following:
  - acrylamido methyl propane sulphonic acid (AMPS),

- ethylene glycol or propylene glycol (meth)acrylate phosphates, sulphates, phosphonates or sulphonates,

- sodium methallylsulphonate (MTAS) or allylsulphonate,
- itaconic acid,
- sodium styrene sulphonate,
- tetrahydrophthalic anhydride,

C) ~~0% to 30% by weight non-ionic monomer units other than the monomers A)~~  
optionally additionally comprises non-ionic monomer units selected from the group consisting of acrylic and methacrylic acid esters and ethers, ~~oxyalkylated monomers with ethylenic non-saturation terminated by a linear or branched chain,~~ vinyl esters, allyl esters, diisobutylene, vinylpyrrolidone, vinylcaprolactam, acrylonitrile, unsaturated urethanes, acrylamides and methylacrylamides,

D) ~~0% to 5% by weight~~ comprises crosslinking monomer units selected from the group consisting of monomers having at least two ethylenic non-saturations.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 12, wherein

C) the unsaturated urethanes are selected from the group consisting of acrylurethanes, methacrylurethanes,  $\alpha$ - $\alpha'$  dimethyl-m-isopropenylbenzyl urethane, and allylurethane,

D) the crosslinking monomer units are selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, trimethylolpropanetriacrylate, allyl acrylate, allyl maleates, methylene-bis-acrylamide, methylene-bis-methacrylamide, tetrallyloxyethane, the triallylcyanurates, trivinylcyclohexane, and allyl ethers obtained from polyols.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): Paper or cardboard coated with the coating color according to Claim 11.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): Paper or cardboard coated with the coating color according to Claim 12.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): Paper or cardboard coated with the coating color according to Claim 13.

Claim 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method Claim ~~[[17]]~~ 11, wherein the ~~groups~~ non-ionic monomer units C) comprise ~~are~~ di-, tri-, or tetrasterylphenols ~~groups~~ or nonylphenols.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 13, wherein D) the crosslinking monomer units are allyl esters obtained from polyols selected from the group consisting of pentaerythritol, sorbitol, and sucrose.

Claim 20 (New): The method of Claim 11, wherein D) is present in an amount greater than 0%.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 11 has been amended by incorporating subject matter of Claim 17 therein; by requiring that component C) be present, as supported, for example, in Test N° 8 at page 13 of the specification; and by correcting a typographical error. Claim 12 has been amended to be consistent with the amendment to Claim 11, and by deleting superfluous matter. Claim 17 has been canceled. Claim 18 has been amended to be consistent with the amendment to Claim 11, and to depend on Claim 11. Finally new Claim 20 has been added, which requires that component D) be present, as supported, for example, in Test N° 10 at page 14 of the specification.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 11-16 and 18-20 are now pending in the application.